

D-800

Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House, (Calvin Lycurgus Kiah House)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 01-31-2013

D-800
Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House
Cambridge
c. 1889
Private

Cyrus St. Clair, a free mulatto resident of Cambridge prior to the Civil War, figures prominently in the history of the county seat as one of its principal African-American leaders during the mid nineteenth century, and his sons and grandchildren carried on leadership roles as the city grew during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Born around 1822, Cyrus St. Clair surfaces in the public record in 1850 as the free black grantee of a house and lot near the outlines of Cambridge where he resided at the time. The lot was located near Waugh Chapel, the first African-American congregation in the town with a founding date of 1826. Cyrus St. Clair was engaged in raising and marketing cattle with a successful town butchery, a profession for which he is identified in the federal censuses. He is also listed in the United States Internal Revenue Service assessment lists with various amounts of horned cattle during the early to mid 1860s. When in January 1865, the Zion M. E. Church granted full ownership of Waugh Chapel to its black trustees, Cyrus St. Clair was listed as one of them.

In May 1888, Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. purchased a house and lot on High Street from Elizabeth Hodson of Baltimore City for \$350, a parcel located on the north side of Waugh Chapel. The price was not reflective of a well-improved lot. Most likely within the year he financed construction of a new two-and-a-half story cross gabled dwelling, accented with a stylish three-story tower on its southwest gable end that signaled St. Clair's interest in residing in a modern house enriched with similar features consistent

with hundreds of others rising along city streets. Cyrus St. Clair Jr. followed in the butcher's trade like his father. Aged 31, he is grouped in the 1880 census with his wife, Nica, aged 22, and three children, Ida, 6; May, 5; and two year old George.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-800

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House
other Calvin Lycurgus Kiah House

2. Location

street and number 423 High Street ☐ not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Edward Watkins
street and number 800 High Street telephone
city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 122 folio 406
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 1814 tax ID number 7-152000

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-800

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. house, located at 423 High Street, is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, cross-gabled frame dwelling that stands on the north side of High Street near its intersection with Pine Street in Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built around 1889-90, the side hall/parlor plan frame house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched cross gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the southwest gable end is a three-story octagonal tower topped by an tapered octagonal roof. The single-pile main block is extended to the rear by a two-story, three-bay service wing. The house faces southeast with the main gable oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. house stands at 423 High Street across from its intersection with Pine Street in central Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, side hall/parlor plan main block, built around 1888-90, is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards. The cross-gabled three-bay, single-pile main block is extended to the rear by a two-story, three-bay service wing.

The southeast (main) elevation is a asymmetrical three-bay façade with a sidelighted side entrance in the northeastern bay, while long single-pane sash windows flanked by replacement vinyl shutters mark to the two bays to the southwest. The first floor is sheltered by a single-story Tuscan columned porch. The northeast corner of porch is rounded and shelters a secondary entrance to an enclosed portion single-story shed roofed section that extends across the gable end. The second story of the southeast elevation is defined by three evenly spaced single-pane sash windows flanked by louvered vinyl shutters. Marking the steeply pitched roof is a center cross gable pierced by a pointed arch two-over-two sash window. The peak of the cross gable is enriched with a pierced sawn decoration. Rising from the peak of the cross gable is a pointed wooden finial.

The southwest gable end of the main block is defined by a three-story semi-octagonal tower, which has three fully exposed sides on the first, second and attic floors. The full octagonal shape is found in the eight-sided tower that is finished at its point with a wooden finial as well. The tower is sheathed with plain panels of vinyl sheathing. The northeast side of the house is enlarged with a two-story, single-bay gable roofed wing that dates to the early twentieth century. The front porch curves around the northeast corner to intersect an enclosed section of porch that has a separate entry, most likely used as a private shop entrance.

The northwest (rear) elevation of the main block is largely covered by a two-story, three-bay service wing capped by a steeply pitched gable roof finished with boxed cornices. A narrow brick stove chimney rises through the gable end.

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Name
Continuation Sheet

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The interior was not seen on the initial site visit.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-800

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Cyrus St. Clair, a free mulatto resident of Cambridge prior to the Civil War, figures prominently in the history of the county seat as one of its principal African-American leaders during the mid 19th century, and his sons carried on leadership roles as the city grew during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born around 1822, Cyrus St. Clair surfaces in the public record in 1850 as the free black grantee of a house and lot near the outlines of Cambridge where he resided at the time.¹ The lot was located near the Waugh Chapel, the first African-American congregation in the town with a founding date of 1826. Cyrus St. Clair was engaged in the raising and marketing of cattle with a successful town butchery, a profession for which he is identified in the Federal censuses.² He is also listed in the United States Internal Revenue Service assessment lists with various amounts of horned cattle during the early to mid 1860s.³ When in January 1865, the Zion M. E. Church granted full ownership of Waugh Chapel to its black trustees, Cyrus St. Clair was listed as one of them.⁴

In May 1888, Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. purchased a house and lot on High Street from Elizabeth Hodson of Baltimore City for \$350⁵, a parcel located on the north side of the Waugh Chapel. The price was not reflective of a well-improved lot. Most likely within the year he financed construction of a new two-and-a-half story cross gabled dwelling, accented with a stylish three-story tower on its southwest gable that signaled St. Clair's interest in residing in a modern house enriched with similar features consistent with hundreds of others rising along city streets. Cyrus St. Clair Jr. followed in the butcher's trade like his father. Aged 31, he is grouped in the 1880 census with his wife Nica, 22; and three children, Ida, 6; May, 5; and two-year old George.⁶

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 5/561, 21 August 1850, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

² Tenth Census of the United States, Population Schedule for Dorchester County, Ancestry.com.

³ U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918, National Archives, Ancestry.com.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 6/58, 1 January 1865, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 11/97, 4 May 1888, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

⁶ Tenth Census of the United States, Population Schedule for Dorchester County, Ancestry.com.

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Name Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House
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Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House
423 High Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 301, Parcel 1814

122/406 Charles E. Lane, widower

to

2.28.1961 Edward E. Watkins and Edna E. Watkins

Formerly 223 High Street, Lots 1, 2, and 3

RSM 92/283 Calvin Lycurgus Kiah

to

2.5.1955 Charles E. Lane and Bessie S. Lane

RSM 56/642 Lillie M. Jackson and Keiffer A. Jackson, Baltimore City

to

11.26.1945 Calvin Lycurgus Kiah

Lots No. 1 Dwelling House, 223 High Street...being the same home property of Mamie E. St. Clair and where she formerly resided, devised to her by her husband Cyrus E. St. Clair, 4.1915, RPS 2/118, and which Mamie St. Clair conveyed to Lillie M. Jackson, 11.18.1940, RSM 42/50

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Name Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House

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CL 11/97

Elizabeth A. Hodson, Baltimore City

to

5.4.1888

Cyrus E. St. Clair

\$350....all that house and lot on High Street which was conveyed to my
late father Joseph S. Hooper by Jeremiah C. Wright, 1.29.1850, WJ 5/280

WJ 5/280

Jeremiah C. Wright and Margaret R. Wright

to

1.29.1850

Joseph S. Hooper

\$100... all that piece or parcel of ground lying and being on the Town of
Cambridge and situated on High Street Extended and on the west side
Thereof, and Beginning at the Northeast corner of Hester Ann Jennifer's
Yard front on the said Street

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Name Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House
Continuation Sheet

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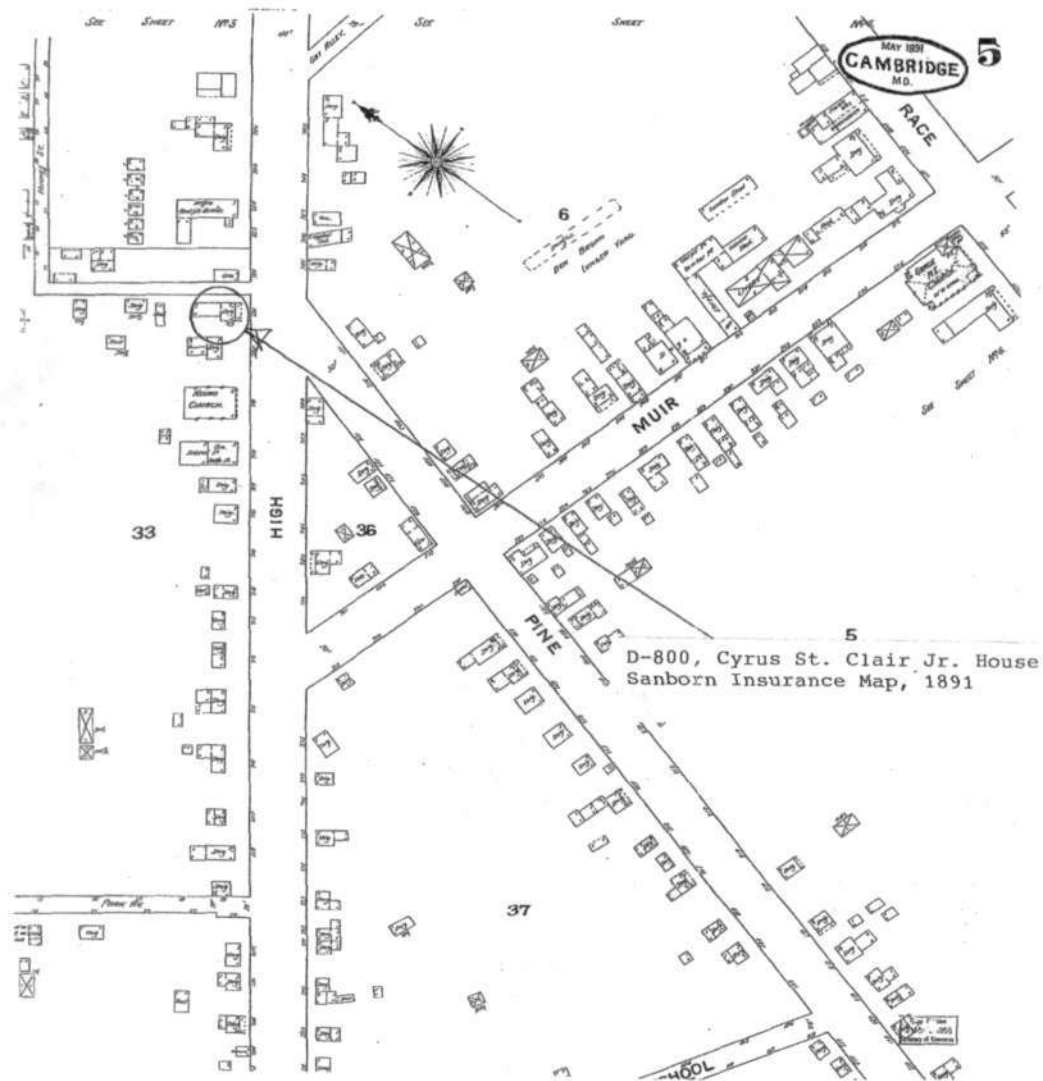
D-800, Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House
Cambridge, Maryland Quadrangle

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House
Continuation Sheet

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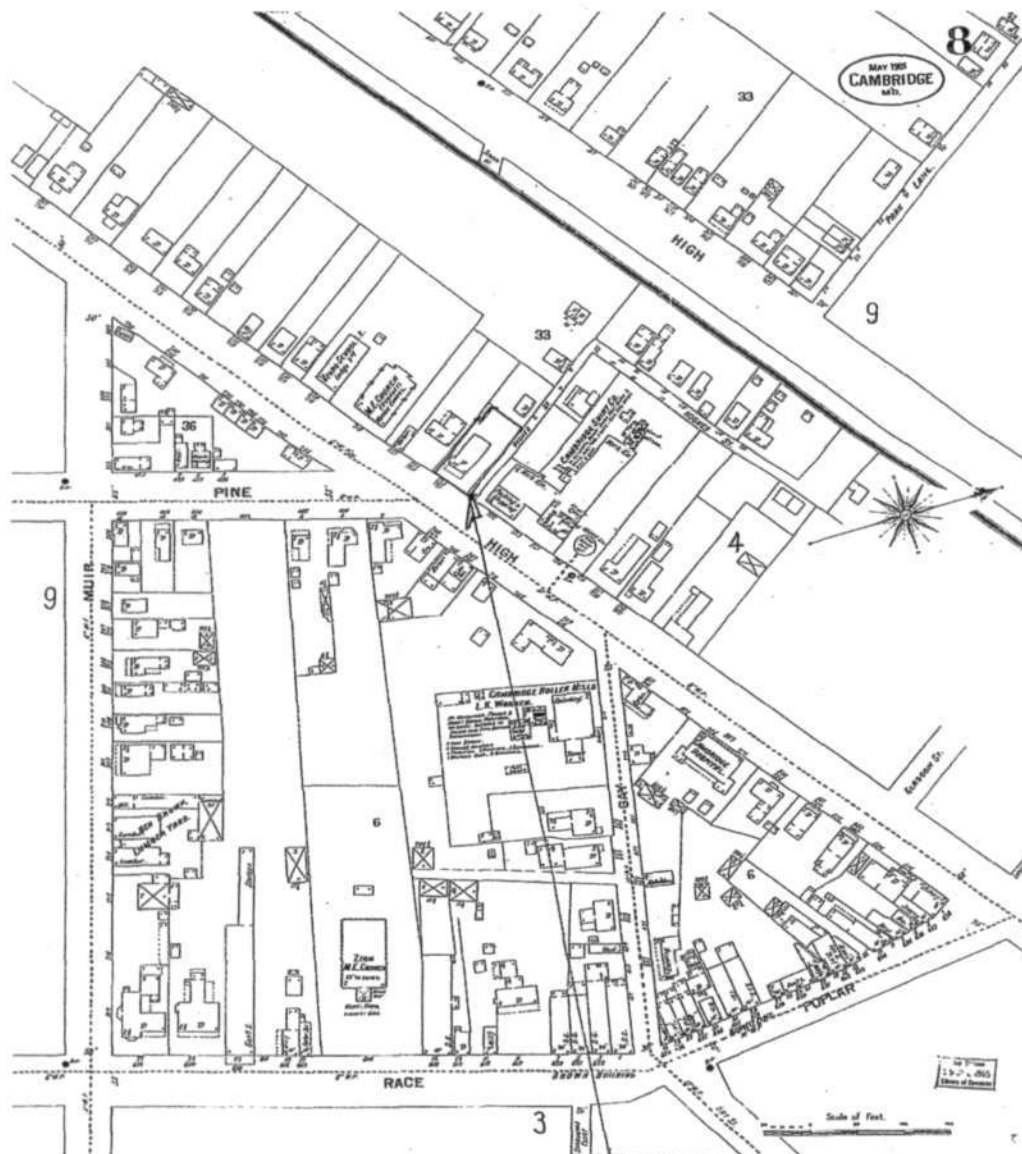


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D-800, Cyrus St. Clair Jr. House
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Sanborn Insurance maps, various issues, Library of Congress.

Tenth Census of the United States (1880), Population Schedule of Dorchester County, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 7,211 square feet

Acreage of historical setting Unknown size of town lot

Quadrangle name Cambridge, Maryland Quad Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

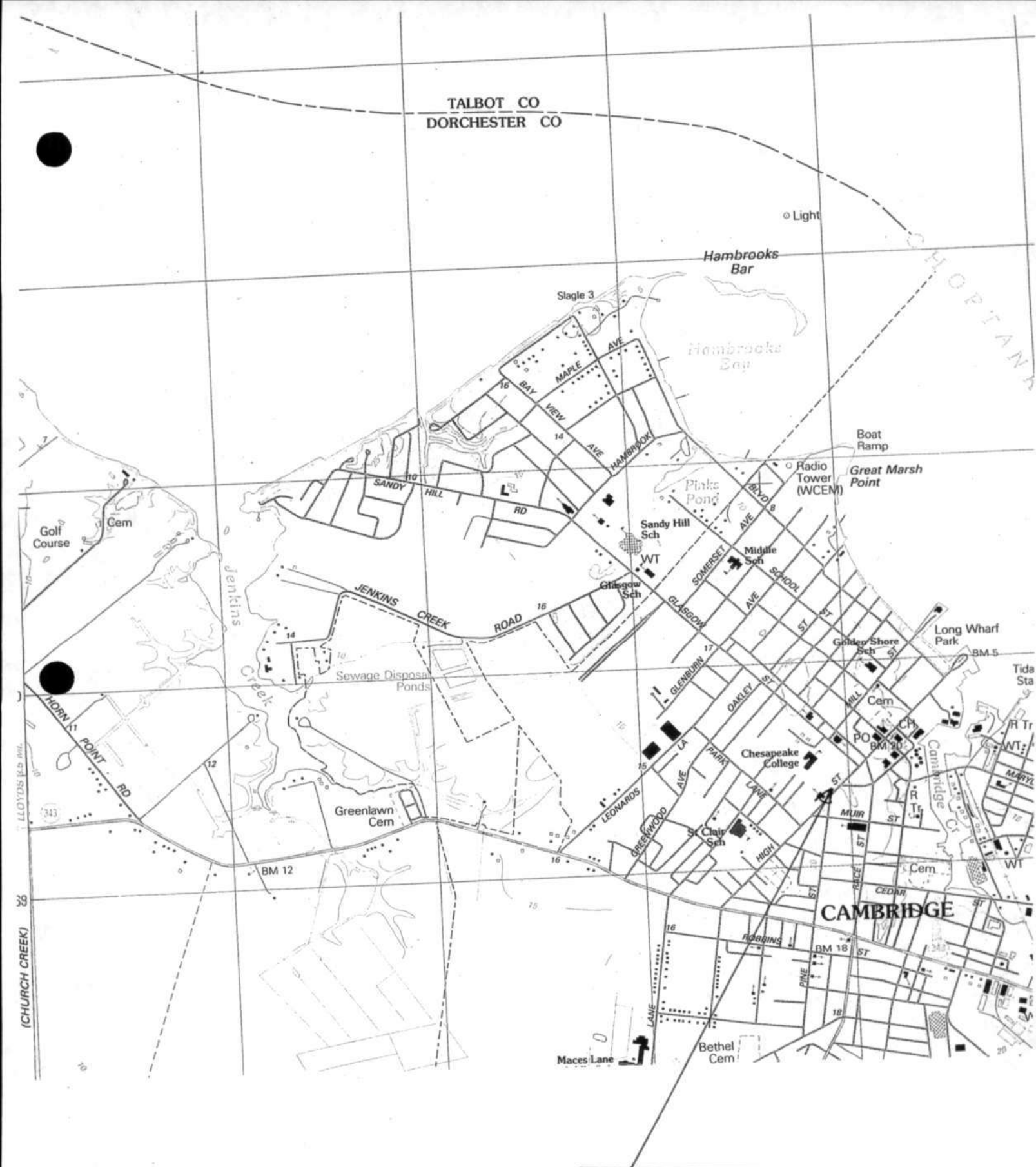
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1/10/2011
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO



D-800, Cyrus St. Clair, Jr. House
Cambridge, Maryland Quadrangle



D-800

Cyrus St. Clark Ln. House
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co. MA.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

1. 2011, PAUL B. TOWNSEND, PITTSF.
N.E.L./M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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